

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OMB-01 AID-20 PC-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 OPR-02 SSO-00 DRC-01 /129 W

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P R 052133Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3580

INFO USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L LA PAZ 4365

REF: LA PAZ 4338

1. SPECULATION RIFE IN LA PAZ THAT CABINET CRISIS WILL TAKE PLACE WEEK OF JULY 7 OR AT LATEST JULY 17 (FOLLOWING LOCAL HOLIDAY DIA DE LA PAZ). HIGH COMMAND OF ARMED FORCES AND LEADERS OF FPN POLITICAL PARTIES ARE MEETING JULY 5 ALLEGEDLY TO PERSUADE COL. AYOROA TO POSTPONE SUBMISSION HIS RESIGNATION AS MINISTER INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE. AYOROA HAS SAID PRIVATELY HIS DEICISION TO RESIGN IS IRREVOCABLE AND WOULD BE PRESENTED JULY 5. HOWEVER, IF ASSURED THAT ALL MEMBERS OF CABINET RESIGNING WEEK OF JULY 7 IN ANY CASE, HE MIGHT AGREE TO WAIT AND HELP SAVE WHAT LITTLE FACE GOB RETAINS.

2. IT ALSO APPEARS THAT IF AN ALL MILITARY CABINET IS FORMED (WHICH SEEMS LIKELY) IT WILL BE COMPOSED OF AIRLY YOUNG OFFICERS AT THE LIGHT COLONEL TO COLONEL LEVEL. INFORMED SOURCES SUGGEST THAT THE POLITICAL BENT OF SUCH A CABINET WOULD TEND TOWARD THE PERUVIAN MODEL, BUT COULD BE CONTROLLED BY PRES BANZER. SHOULD PRES BANZER RESIGN AND BE REPLACED BY A YOUNG OFFICER, WE COULD EXPECT TO SEE SOME ACTIONS FAVORING THE LABOR SECTOR AS THESE YOUNGER OFFICERS PROBABLY SHARE THE VIEWS EXPRESSED BY THE OFFICERS INVOLVED IN THE JUNE 5 COUP ATTEMPT THAT THE BANZER ADMINISTRATION IS OVERLY IDENTIFIED WITH THE PRIVATE SECTOR, I.E.

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THE MEDIUM MINERS. HOWEVER, BANZER HIMSELF MAY WELL AGREE

TO BECOME MORE LABOR ORIENTED, FOLLOWING THE REPORTEDLY WARM WELCOME HE RECEIVED AT THE HANDS OF THE CGT IN BUENOS AIRES AS A RESULT OF HIS HAVING ASTUTELY INCLUDED A LONG-TIME MNR LABOR LEADER AS A MEMBER OF HIS DELEGATION TO ATTEND THE PERON FUNERAL SERVICE.

3. THERE IS, OF COURSE, THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE GROUP OF OFFICERS NOW ENGAGED IN DISCUSSING THE NEW CABINET WILL MAKE UNACCEPTABLE DEMANDS ON THE PRESIDENT AND IN EFFECT FORCE HIS RESIGNATION. WITHOUT THE FULL SUPPORT OF THE HIGH COMMAND TO BACK HIM UP, BANZER IS ON SHAKY GROUND AND WILL HAVE TO BE FORTHCOMING WITH THE OFFICERS WHO ARE FORCING THE CRISIS. OTHER SENIOR OFFICERS WHO COULD REPLACE BANZER AND PRESUMABLY WOULD HAVE THE ACQUIESCENCE OF THE YOUNGER MILITARY ARE GENERALS ALVAREZ AND LECHIN.

4. AT THIS WRITING, EMBASSY BELIEVES BANZER WILL STAY ON AS HEAD OF AN ALL-MILITARY CABINET AND THAT HE WILL CALL FOR ELECTIONS WITHIN SIX MONTHS TO A YEAR.
STEDMAN

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